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The Director of Central Intelligence

Washington, D.C. 20505

National Intelligence Council

NIC-04230/86
10 September 1986

MEMORANDUM FOR: Director of Central Intelligence
Deputy Director of Central Intelligence

THROUGH: Acting Chairman, National Intelligence Council

FROM: Fritz W. Ermarth
National Intelligence Officer for USSR

SUBJECT: NSC/OSD Commission On Strategy

1. Conversations lately with Albert Wohlstetter, Zbig Brzezinski, and Andy Marshall have given me some information on a new "blue ribbon" exercise to study US strategy and national security policy. Although you may know more, here is what I know.

2. This commission will respond to both NSC and OSD and will produce a report for the President (presumably classified) and a public report. It will be chaired jointly by Albert Wohlstetter and Fred Ikle. The commission itself will be a panel of luminaries likely to include Kissinger, Brzezinski, Ann Armstrong, and numerous other public figures. The actual work will go on in committees which will include lesser experts.

3. Substantive coverage will include such topics as strategy and rhetoric on nuclear weapons, scenarios, modernization and how they live with SDI in the years ahead, regional contingencies and options, technology initiatives, low-intensity warfare and the Reagan Doctrine. SDI doctrine and architecture is an interest. So are various "black" programs. Apparently the thrust is broad defense policy and force structure, not to duplicate the management focus of the Packard Commission, but perhaps with some overlap.

4. The political aim is to rationalize Administration security policy, to define needed new initiatives, and to articulate them in ways that can gain public consensus and bureaucratic discipline in the years ahead. In short, the aim is to help institutionalize Reagan national security policy before the end of the term.

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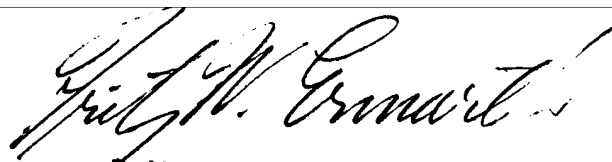
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5. In one way or another, the commission will want help from your subordinates. Intelligence briefings on specific subjects will be needed. Some NIOs and other Agency officials may be asked to play more continuing roles in the several committees. Wohlstetter has indicated an interest in an early appearance by me [redacted]

[redacted] to sensitize the commission on the evolution (and past content, correctly rather than childishly understood) of Soviet strategy. The idea is less a definitive Community position than a heads up on what the Soviets may be toying with and likely to face us with in the years ahead. [redacted]

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Fritz W. Ermarth

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